

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel previously withdrawn claims 1-13 and 28 without prejudice as to the filing of a divisional application with claims of a similar scope. Amend claims 14, 22-26, 29 and 30 and cancel claims 15 and 16. Add new claim 31.

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) An assembly for increasing hair volume or length comprising:

a support tape having an adhesive face;

a plurality of hair extensions, each of them comprising a respective connecting element at the proximal end thereof for fixing the hair extension to head hair [several hairs, which are connected by a fixing element], said extensions being aligned and substantially parallel with their connecting [fixing] elements located on the adhesive face of the support tape[;

connecting means associated with the fixing elements to connect the extensions to head hair].

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein said support tape is transparent.

18. (Original) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the fixing elements are made of a thermoplastic material.

19. (Original) An assembly according to claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic material is made of one of a group consisting of polyester and polyamide and polyurethane.

20. (Original) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein a protective tape is provided on said support tape to be removed before adhering the support tape to the head hair.

21. (Original) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the support tape is resistant to heat.

22. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the connecting [fixing] elements include decorative elements.

23. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the adhesive face of the support tape is based upon an adhesive of a non-permanent and revisable type operated by pressure and with an adhesive force on the support tape greater than that produced on the connecting [thermoplastic material of the fixing] elements.

24. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the connecting elements comprise [means comprises] an adhesive substance comprised of one of the group consisting of thermoplastic material, thermosetting material, heat-activated glues and glues activated by exposure to air.

25. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the connecting [fixing] elements are arranged along a straight line with spaces between them on the support tape.

26. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the connecting elements and the hair have the same [of the extensions is of different] color [than that of the head hair].

27. (Original) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the connecting [fixing] elements comprises plates having at least layers of plastic with different melting points.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A system for use in increasing hair volume or length, comprising:

a support tape having an adhesive face;

a plurality of hair extensions, each of them comprising a respective connecting element at the proximal end thereof for fixing the hair extensions to head hair [several hairs, which are connected by a fixing element], said hair extension being aligned and substantially parallel with their connecting fixing elements located on the adhesive face of the support tape; and

[connecting means associated with the fixing elements to connect the extensions to head hair; and]

a gripper device for applying at least one of mechanical energy, heat and ultrasonic energy via at least one of two pressure elements which are elongated to apply a uniform pressure along a length of the tape on each of the connecting elements.

30. (Currently amended) An assembly for increasing hair volume or length comprising:

a support tape having an adhesive face;

a plurality of hair extensions, each of them comprising a respective connecting element at the proximal end thereof for fixing the hair extensions to head hair [comprising several hairs, which are connected by a fixing element], said hair extensions being aligned and substantially parallel with their [fixing] elements located on the adhesive face of the support tape; and

[connecting means associated with the fixing elements to connect the extensions to head hair, and]

means for practicing a method of increasing hair volume or length utilizing said support tape[,] and said plurality of hair extensions [and said connecting means].

31. (New) An assembly for increasing hair volume or length comprising:

- a support tape having an adhesive face;
- a plurality of extensions, comprising several hairs, which are connected by a fixing element, said extensions being aligned and substantially parallel with their fixing elements located on the support tape;
- connecting means associated with the fixing elements to connect the extensions to head hair;
- the fixing elements comprising plates having at least layers of plastic with different melting points.